

Economic Overview - Manufacturing - Growing Manufacturing Industries in El Paso

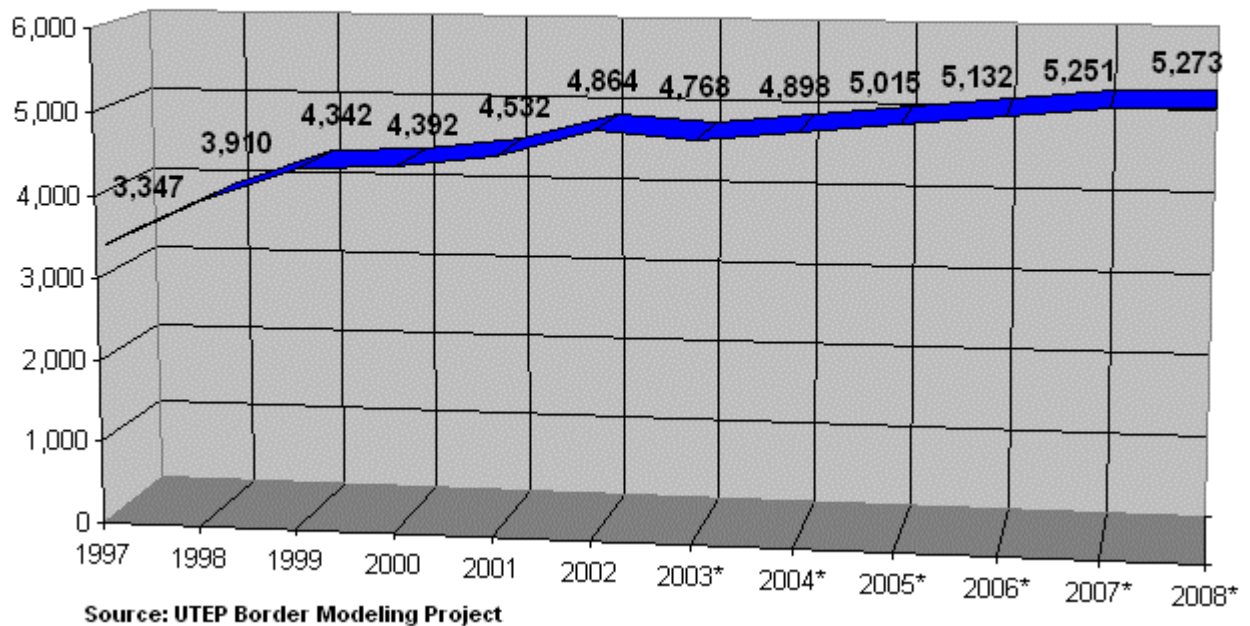
Over the next few years, El Paso will experience a continued decline in the apparel and textile industry, but this should be offset by growth in manufacturing operations in two other areas: those that are part of the maquiladora process, and growth in higher value-added companies that are attracted to the assets that El Paso has to offer. Partly resulting from activity in Ciudad Juarez, job growth in sectors such as rubber and plastics, electronic equipment, and transportation equipment has grown at annual rates of over six percent since 1996. These trends are expected to continue.

The growing cross border trade associated with NAFTA and the maquiladoras has brought additional opportunities for El Paso manufacturers. Suppliers from the interior United States send hundreds of trucks to Ciudad Juarez with parts and machinery for the maquiladoras. On the "back haul," the trucks often return with empty loads. This abundance of trucks departing the El Paso/Ciudad Juarez area has driven down the rates on shipments leaving El Paso for locations across the United States.

Ciudad Juarez is the prime maquiladora location in Mexico, providing about one fifth of the nation's overall maquila employment. As of April 2003, there were approximately 302 maquiladora plants and 195,418 maquila workers in the Ciudad Juarez region.

Source: INEGI

El Paso MSA Rubber and Plastics Products Manufacturing Employment Growth and Projections 1997 - 2008



El Paso MSA Electronics and Computer Manufacturing* Employment Growth and Projections 1997-2008

